



DAVID RITTENHOUSE
First Director
1792-1795

David Rittenhouse



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THE RITTENHOUSE SOCIETY

Organization of the Rittenhouse Society was proposed c. 1955 by a small group of young friends who felt their ambitions and interest in numismatics could be better advanced through a united voice. It was hoped that by binding the group together for mutual help and communication, that each would exert a greater impact on the hobby through their research and work.

Founding members of the Society were: Q. David Bowers, Walter Breen, Ken Bressett, Grover Criswell, George Fuld, D. Wayne Johnson and Ken Rendell. In 1961 were added: Lynn Glaser and Eric Newman.

The first meeting of the Society was held August 26, 1960, at the A.N.A. convention in Boston, Massachusetts. (Reported in Rittenhouse Society Newsletter 11/15/60):

Walter Breen presented the "charter" originally proposed "several years ago" suggesting the name Rittenhouse Society. 1960-61 officers were elected: Dave Bowers, president; Walter Breen, vice-president; Dick Johnson, secretary-treasurer. All present donated \$1.00 to the treasury. Johnson agreed to furnish members with a Mint Medal pocket identification piece. Dues, age limitations, publications, awards, and admission requirements were discussed.

The second "annual" meeting of the Society was held August 19, 1961, at the A.N.A. convention in Atlanta, Georgia. (R.S.N. August 1961):

Eric Newman was elected the first honorary member. Lynn Glaser was admitted to membership. Ken Rendell resigned. Aims of the Society were discussed. Age requirements were dropped. The possibility of a publication was explored.

Many proposals for the structure of the Society have been suggested in the past. A more or less general summary is as follows:

General purpose of the Society is the encouragement and recognition of numismatic research and knowledge.

Membership requirements: Interest and knowledge of numismatics.
Authorship of articles and books. By invitation only.

Dues: Yearly \$2.00 to \$5.00. Initiation fee of \$25.00 to \$100.00.

Meeting dates: Annually at some major convention.

Awards: Rittenhouse award to be given to the A.N.A. exhibit displaying the most original research. Another award could be given for the book or article of the year showing the most original research.

Publications: The Society should publish a bulletin for its members and encourage the publication of society sponsored books and monographs.

Scope: U.S. Coins and Paper Money --- including the Colonial period.